



These three sketches detail replacement of the wooden roof pieces on a 1934 DeSoto Airflow SE Coupe. Generally, the dimensions of the original parts are shown; if I used a different dimension or part it is noted in parenthesis.

I believe the original roof frame and bows were fabricated and then assembled on a jig off of the automobile. The chicken wire was nailed on while the wood pieces were still in the jig. The assembly was then lifted onto the car and attached with tee nuts and 1/4" machine screws. Padding was placed over the chicken wire, the roof fabric was laid down and the seal rubber was pushed into its groove to lock the fabric and concurrently produce a water tight top.

The roof was painted along with the rest of the body in order that the top and the body were the same color.

My Airflow had a hardboard headliner which was riveted to six clips. These clips allowed the headliner to be snapped into place on the roof bows. The radio antenna wire is soldered to the chicken wire near the right front corner. The wire travels through a hole in the roof edge and then down the right "A" post to the radio.

With appropriate adjustments in dimensions, the process of replacing the roof system on similar Airflow models should go smoothly.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you can find a source of Ash wood instead of Oak wood, you'll find it much stronger, less subject to warpage and generally superior in all aspects to Oak. Ash looks very similar to Oak and still responds to tools the way oak does.